

Biology 341:

Human Biology

Spring 2008 – Sam Houston State University

Course Description: This is a course in human anatomy and physiology in the context of human biology. This means that we will be looking at our bodies and discovering how we fit in to our environment and how we have evolved. We will explore the human body from the cellular level all the way to the organ systems level, and will put this knowledge into the broader context of human ecology and evolution. I will deliver two lectures per week (Monday and Wednesday). These lectures will deal almost exclusively with anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) of the human body, and will follow along closely with lab exercises. Most Friday classes will be devoted to exploring human biology from different perspectives, such as group activities, discussions from the primary literature (scientific journal articles), discussions of popular scientific articles (e.g. Scientific American), educational videos, etc. Attendance and participation in class discussions are mandatory!

Purpose: The goals of this class are to:

- 1) Provide a working knowledge of anatomical and physiological concepts in relation to the human body, and put this in the context of the human environment.
- 2) To learn about the biology of humans in an evolutionary context

Instructor: **Dr. P. Raelynn Deaton**, Instructor, Department of Biological Sciences, Sam Houston State Univ.

Office: LBD Room 142.

Office Hours: **Office Hours:** I will be in my office most Wednesdays during your lab, so everyone should have an opportunity to see me if necessary. I will pop in labs from time to time to see if anyone has specific questions. If you need to see me for an extended period of time, please make an appointment.

Official Office Hours: *BY APPOINTMENT*

Office Phone: 936-294-1550

Head Lab TA: Chase Pedersen (see contact information on laboratory syllabus)

Lab Instructor: Kristina Nungaray (see contact information on laboratory syllabus)

Contacting the Professor:

The best way to reach me is via email at rdeaton@shsu.edu

You can contact me directly from your SHSU (or other) email account, or you can use Black Board's email function. I also teach Human Anatomy, which is a HUGE class, which means that I teach A LOT of students. Therefore, it is important for you to be sure to sign your emails (I don't know who "prd002" is when that comes up in an email (that's me, by the way!) AND make sure you put your class, section, and subject heading in your email. I am very good about checking email, and responding quickly. However, if you do not give me the appropriate information, you might not get a response from me. I will use email and *BlackBoard* to communicate with the class. So, it is very important that you check your email and *BlackBoard* regularly. **Remember, you MUST check your email, read all emails from me, and follow any instructions given by me via email.**

You may also call my office phone to reach me (see number above).

Timetable:

We will meet every Mo/We/Fri at 8:00am in LDB 220. No sleeping and no tardies! The instructor will lecture every Monday and Wednesday and these lectures will be devoted mostly to anatomy and physiology. Each Friday will be devoted to other class activities, such as reading journal articles, watching educational videos, group activities, etc. The instructor will announce each Monday what activity will be conducted in that Friday's class period. Students are responsible for

coming to class prepared for discussion each Friday. All journal readings will be either handed out to students in class as hard copies, or posted on Black Board.

- Required Text:** *Human Biology, Fourth Edition, Johnson. Pearson.*
- Laboratory Manual:** Laboratory Manual for Human Biology: Concepts and Current Issues, Fourth Edition, Atsma and Hsu, Pearson. **(Required)**
- Lab Supplies:** Dissecting Kit **(Required)**
- Other Lab Supplies:** Lab apron or coat **(Optional)**
- Attendance Policy:** In accordance with University Policy, I expect regular and punctual attendance from each of you. I have very low tolerance for lateness. I realize that we meet early in the morning, but that is no excuse. If you drive, you need to leave ample time for parking, etc. If I have to be on time and come to class prepared every day, so do you! If I notice that you are coming in late, you will hear from me. Students coming in late is not only a distraction to me, but also to your fellow classmates. If you come in late, I will notice, **and I do reserve the right to dock points for tardiness.** Attendance will be taken in class each lecture. If you miss more than three class periods, **I reserve the right to drop you one letter grade per absence after the third absence.** Friday attendance is mandatory! Part of your grade will be based on your participation in Friday discussions. If you are not present, you can not receive those points. No exceptions. If you are an athlete and know of classes that you will miss, I expect these dates in writing by the second week of class.

Lab: You will receive a separate syllabus for the laboratory, which will be posted on BB. Labs will begin on Wednesday Jan. 23th.

Lab Attendance: Lab attendance is mandatory, each week. No exceptions! Your individual TA's will let you know how your absences will affect your grade.

Grading: Your course grade is based on 1000 total points (including lab grade). These points are distributed between three unit exams, four short writing assignments, class paper, class participation and discussion, the final exam, and lab. These distributions are summarized below:

Grade Component	Point Value
Unit Exams (3 * 100 pts)	300
Short Writing Assignments (4 * 20 pts)	80
Class Participation and Attendance	20
Review Paper	100
Final Exam	100
Lab (40%) of total course grade	400
Total	1000

Semester grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90% and above (900 points); B = 80-89%; (800-899 points); C = 70-79% (700-799 points); D = 60-69% (600-699 points); F = 59% and below (< 600 points)

Please note that these cut-offs are guidelines and are subject to adjustment if necessary. Do NOT expect a grade curve at the end of the semester. I normally do not curve grades. I usually grade on a straight point scale, which means that an 85.5% is a B.

Review Paper: You will write a review paper this semester over a topic in Human Biology. This will be a work in progress throughout the semester. You must have your topic approved by me prior to beginning the project. Once you pick your topic, you will do a literature review, outline, abstract, paper, and at least one revision. I will discuss this project more later in the semester, giving more specifics on possible topics, structure of the papers, and deadlines for each component. Each component of the project will be worth a pre-designated number points.

Extra Credit: Generally, I do not give much extra credit. However, on occasion, I may give an in-class writing or brainstorming assignment, or a fun out of class assignment, all for extra points. However, do not count on extra credit points to boost your grade in this course.

- Exam Structure:** We will have three regular exams this semester, and one final exam. Each of the exams will be worth 100 points, and exam format will vary. The final exam will be worth 150 points, comprehensive, covering material relevant to the unit exams, lab, and discussions. Each student, regardless of course grade or status is required to take the final.
- Make-up Policy:** **No make-up examinations will be given.** You must attend all examinations to receive credit. If for some unforeseen reason you are unable to attend a unit exam, you will receive a zero for that exam. All students in the class must take the final exam. If you are an athlete or have to miss an exam due to university-related activities, you **MUST** provide a written and signed document to me within the first two weeks of class, and you **MUST** schedule your exam to be made up **AHEAD** of time. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE CLASS HAS TAKEN THE EXAM.** It is your responsibility to schedule these exams, and to let me know ahead of time that you will be absent from an exam.
- Homework Sets:** Four writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester and will be worth 20 points each. These writing assignments will pertain to class readings and class discussions. Due dates will be announced at least one week in advance and you will have the chance to revise each assignment to earn back up to half of the points lost. Absolutely **NO** late work will be accepted.
- Grade Checks:** Point totals will be updated once every two weeks on the *Blackboard* web-based course management system (discussed below). We will discuss how to access and use *Blackboard* during the first week of class.
- Blackboard:** I will use the course management system, *Blackboard* to reiterate announcements, post course documents, give test keys, and post points. *Blackboard* also allows me to e-mail the whole class at once; I may use it occasionally to make important announcements, send reminders, etc. But *Blackboard* only knows what you tell the University's e-mail system. So if you use an e-mail system other than SHSU's, please have your SHSU account forwarded to the account that you normally use. If you need help doing this, you can contact computer services at 4-1950.
- Important Dates:**
Exam I: Lecture – Friday, Feb. 22
Mid-term Lab Practical – Wed. Feb. 27
Exam II: Lecture – Friday, March 28
Final Lab Practical – Wed. April 23
Exam III: Lecture – Friday, May 2
Final Exam Lecture – Monday May 12 (8-10am)
- Please note that if you withdraw after the date for an automatic W, I will assign you a W for the class if you are passing at the time of withdrawal; if you are failing, academic standards require that you receive an F.
- Review Sessions:** We will hold review sessions in the format of open-lab before the mid-term and final lab practical exams.
- Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any other action that may improperly affect the evaluation of your performance. It also includes assisting others in any such act or attempts to engage in such acts. Penalties may include grade penalties and disciplinary action from the University's Academic Misconduct Board.
- Reasonable Accommodation:** SHSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with me as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. It is your responsibility to let the instructor know if you have special needs.

One More Thing: Universities expect you to spend 2–3 hours of study time OUTSIDE OF CLASS for each credit hour (that’s why 12 credit hours is considered “full time”)! There is a lot of material to cover in this course, but you can do very well in any class if you decide to study efficiently and commit the necessary time to your education. What should you do during that time? Some suggestions: read your text and review your lecture notes, make sure you understand the material, be sure and ask questions as they arise, re-write your notes and incorporate important information from the text, develop study aids, etc. The investment will be worth it as you approach your exams.

Visitors: Visitors are welcome to come to our class, as long as you contact the instructor ahead of time.

***Note: This syllabus is subject to change. Any significant changes or revisions to this syllabus will be announced and posted on Black Board.**

You must print and sign the last page of this syllabus, and turn into the professor by Friday Jan. 18th. Otherwise, you will forgo your class participation points for this class.

I, _____ (printed name), hereby attest that I have carefully read the course syllabus for Human Biology (BIO 341) in its entirety. I understand the syllabus and course policies, have addressed any questions and/or concerns with the professor, and will follow the guidelines on the course syllabus. I understand that if I do not sign this syllabus, I will not receive any participation points for Human Biology (20 points). I also understand that if I contact the professor asking any question that is clearly answered on the course syllabus, then I will forgo any participation points in this course. Finally, I will check my SHSU email regularly and will NOT ask the professor to accept late work unless I have extenuating circumstances (ie. official SHSU business, a death in my immediate family).

Student signature: _____ Date: _____